**A Report on**

**Africa RISING West Africa Survey Design Meeting**

**Accra, Ghana, February 10-12, 2012**

**February 19**

* ***Meeting Objective***

The objective of the survey instrument design meeting that was held in Accra on February 10-12, 2013 was three fold[[1]](#footnote-1):

* Revise IFPRI’s draft baseline survey instrument for Africa RISING project in Ghana.
* Harmonize the draft baseline survey instrument with existing survey tools.
* Agree on survey design and implementation.
* ***Northern Ghana Baseline Survey***

Before the survey design instrument in Accra, IFPRI shared the draft survey instrument with partners in Ghana for their review. The instrument had the following modules adapted from the Northern Ghana Agricultural Survey, conducted by IFPRI and the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic You +1'd this publicly. Research (ISSER) in 2011, the Malawi Unified Baseline Survey, conducted by IFPRI and USAID in 2012, and Feed the Future Population-based survey. The instrument has also been updated by including general comments received from participants of the survey design meeting for East and Southern Africa mega site that was held on January 28 - 30, 2013 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

* Household members
* Agricultural land
* Crop production
* Crop inputs (cost, soil conservation, and labor)
* Crop sale (quantities and cooperatives)
* Crop storage
* Livestock
* Other income
* Credit
* Health
* Housing
* Labor
* Food outside the household
* Welfare and food security
* Food consumption over the past one week
* Non-Food Expenditures (last one week, one month, and 12 months )
* Family/Household non-farm enterprise
* Recent shocks
* Child anthropometry
* Women anthropometry
* Household re-contact

After a brief introductory remark by Dr. Larbi on the first day of the meeting, Dr. Haile discussed with participants about the baseline survey including

* + its importance.
  + activities performed so far (collection of GIS data, stratification, site selection, discussions with potential partners to assist IFPRI with baseline data collection (Innovations for Poverty Action and the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research), review of applications for the local M&E coordinator position and interviews with candidates).
  + IFPRI’s sample size calculations and implications for desired sample size (number of communities).
  + expected timeline for the baseline survey (March, 2013) and availability of data thereof (August 2013).

The following individuals provided comments on the draft instrument that were later reviewed by meeting participants in Accra.

* Yakubu Balma, University for Development Studies
* Theresa Endres, AVRDC The World Vegetable Center
* J. K. Bidzakin, Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
* Dr. A. Tenkouano, AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center

Meeting participants assessed the relevance of the proposed questions, response options, list of crops and animals, and units of measurements to the context of northern Ghana. The following are among the suggestions by meeting participants.[[2]](#footnote-2)

* Addition of an explanation as to who qualifies to be a “household” member - *The household include the people who live and share meals at least one season per year, and income generated with farming. Members who live somewhere else and only come to visit and bring money are not household members.*
* Addition of a preamble for each module clearly stating who in the household needs to be interviewed.
* In the crop production module, reword questions about crop production per plot to accommodate farmers who may practice intercropping and produce multiple crops per plot.
* In the crop input (conservation) module, reword the question about how much manure was applied to also gather data about the type of manure.
* In the crop input (conservation) module, reword the question about problems faced with seed varieties to accommodate multiple responses/problems by farmers.
* In the crop sale (quantities) module, ask a question about whether there was a crop failure before asking the reasons for crop failure.
* In the crop sale (quantities) module, questions about how much of the harvest was or ***will be*** used for animal feed/crop residue may be hard to measure as farmers may know not *a priori* how much of their harvest they will use for crop residue/animal feed. May be ask about how much **was** used for animal feed/crop residue.
* In the crop storage module, the question about quantity in storage may be hard to estimate since some crops (e.g., millet, sorghum) are stored with the corpuses. May be reworded the question so that the quantity of crop in storage is excluding crop corpuses.
* In the livestock module
  + The question about the amount of manure produced by animal type may be hard to estimate. May be collect data on total manure produced.
  + Add questions about the number of animals received by the household as gift, given by the household as gift, and additions due to birth and purchase.
  + Add questions on livestock to collect data bout housing, availability of drinking of water, level of mechanization, and marketing. Dr. Franklin K. from Animal Research Institute shared an instrument (Volta basin household survey instrument) for IFPRI’s review.
  + Renting of animals is not a common practice in the target region. May be replace “rental” with "to provide service.”
* In the welfare and food security module:
  + Add a question about whether the household had enough ‘quality’ food to feed the household (in addition to the ‘quantity’ of food).
  + May be ask respondents to define what they consider as rich before asking them to describe their condition (as rich, comfortable, poor, etc.)
  + Reword the question about who in the household usually eats a more diverse variety of foods. Household members share the same type of food cooked in household and intra-household variation may arise with regard to quantity consumed and not variety of food consumed per se.
* In the housing module, farmers may not have a good idea of how much it would cost if they were going to rent or pay their house. This question will revision to make it easier for the farmer to come up with an accurate estimate.
* In the woman anthropometry module, reword the question “Are you currently pregnant?” to make it less culturally sensitive. Participants feet that asking a women if is pregnant can be ‘offensive’ and IPFRI will need to find a less offensive way of figuring out whether the female respondent is pregnant.

The following are among the concerns raised by participants regarding the baseline instrument for northern Ghana

* The instrument is very long and administering such a long survey may pose a serious challenge.
* Most of the questions in the Health and Labor modules may not be applicable to the majority of the people in the target communities and hence it may be worth cutting/revising these modules.
* Providing plot- and parcel-level data about agricultural land and crop production can be difficult for farmers and may take a lot of their time. IFPRI may want to consider collecting plot- and parcel-level data only for USAID-focus crops.
* Measuring crop failure and quantity of manure produced can be difficult.

Meeting participants did not get to talk in detail about survey design and implementation, as there are higher-level issues related with the M&E system and the approach for impact evaluation that need to be resolved.

**Appendices**

# Appendix A Baseline Survey Instrument Design Meeting Program

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| **Objectives** | | |
|  | | |
| * Revise IFPRI’s draft baseline survey instrument for Africa RISING project in Ghana. | | |
| * Harmonize the draft baseline survey instrument with existing survey tools. | | |
| * Agree on survey design and implementation. | | |
|  | |  |
| **Saturday, 9 February, 2013: Arrival of participants** | |  |
|  | |  |
| **Day 1: Sunday, 10 February, 2013** | |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 1: Background and objectives** | |  |
| 08:00-08:30 | Registration |  |
| 08:30-08:45 | Welcome, background and objectives, IITA | A. Larbi |
| 08:45-09:00 | Overview of Ghana ARBES, IFPRI | B. Halie |
| 09:00-09:30 | Discussion |  |
| 09:30-10:00 | Break |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 2: Discussions - Survey boundaries** | |  |
| 10:00-11:30 | A : Area identification, area codes |  |
|  | B : Household member roster |  |
|  | C : Health |  |
|  | D : Labour |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 3: Discussions - Household characteristics module** | |  |
| 11:30-12:30 | K : Other income |  |
|  | M: Credit |  |
|  | N: Housing, water and sanitation |  |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 3: Household characteristics module cont’d** | |  |
| 13:30-14:30 | O : Welfare and food security |  |
|  | P : Consumption of food |  |
|  | Q : Food outside the household |  |
|  | R and R2 : Non-food expenditures (past 1 week, 4 weeks, 12 months) |  |
|  | L : Non-farm enterprise |  |
| 14:30-15:00 | Break |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 3: Household characteristics module cont’d** | | |
| 15:00-16:00 | S : Recent shocks to household welfare |  |
|  | T : Child anthropometry |  |
|  | U : Women anthropometry |  |
| 16:00-16:30 | General discussion |  |
| 16:30 | Closing |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Day 2: Monday, 11 February, 2013** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 4: Agriculture and livestock module 1** | |  |
| 08:30-10:00 | E : Land |  |
|  | F : Crop production |  |
| 10:00-10:30 | Break |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 5: Agriculture and livestock module 2** | | |
| 10:30-12:30 | G, G2, G3, G4 : Crop inputs cost (labour, soil conservation, seed) |  |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |  |
| 13:30-15:00 | G, G2, G3, G4 : Crop inputs cost (labour, soil conservation, seed) |  |
| 15:00-15:30 | Break |  |
| 15:30-16:30 | G, G2, G3, G4 : Crop inputs cost (labour, soil conservation, seed) |  |
| 16:30 | Closing |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Day 3: Tuesday, 12 February, 2013** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Session 5: Agriculture and livestock module 2 cont’d** | | |
| 08:30-10:00 | H and H1 : (Crop sale, cooperative services) |  |
|  | I : Crop storage |  |
| 10:00-10:30 | Break |  |
| 10:30-12:30 | J and J2: Livestock and livestock feed |  |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |  |
| 13:30-15:00 | Complete discussion on modules |  |
| 15:00-15:30 | Break |  |
| 15:30-16:30 | Conclusion/way forward and closure |  |

# Appendix B List of Survey Design Workshop Participants

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| **S/NO** | **NAME** | **ORGANISATION** |
| 1 | Asamoah Larbi | IITA |
| 2 | Beliyou Haile | IFPRI |
| 3 | Saaka Buah | SARI |
| 4 | Wilson Dogbe | SARI |
| 5 | John Bandich | SARI |
| 6 | Franklin Avorngo | ARI |
| 7 | Mary Glover | Food Research Institute |
| 8 | Abdou Tenkuano | AVRDC |
| 9 | Mellon Shaibu | IITA |

1. Please refer to Appendices A and B for meeting agenda and list of meeting participants, respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. IFPRI is currently updating the survey instrument per feedback received during Accra meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)